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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Atty. Dkt. No.: 001309.00053

Nobuaki TSUJINO

Serial No.: 10/724,619

Filed: December 2, 2003

For: FILE AND BINDING MEMBER

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicants' duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), the following information is submitted for consideration by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-captioned application. The information is identified on the attached PTO-1449 form.

Copies of the cited references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Each item of information contained herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

These documents were cited by the European Patent Office for corresponding European Application No. 04 001 188.4. A copy of the search report is also enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.104.

It is also respectfully requested that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the appropriate place to indicate that the document has been considered, and return a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned in accordance with MPEP Section 609.

Applicants do not waive any right to take appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to ensure consideration of the cited references by the Examiner. However, if a fee is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

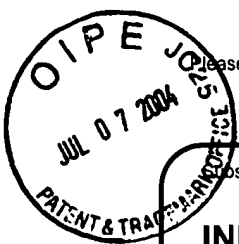


Susan A. Wolffe
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Date: 7/7/04

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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Institute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/724,619
Filing Date	December 2, 2003
First Named Inventor	Nobuaki TSUJINO
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	001309.00053

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	1,507,547		Grunewald	09-02-1924	
	AB	3,275,005		Cott	09-27-1966	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ₆
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AC	WO	01-43980		Hirsch	06-21-2001		Y

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

¹ EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.